Juvenile Delinquency - 1938

Alabama

Mobile Ala. Press
April 7. 1938

New Detention Home For Negroes Planned

Construction of a new building for the negro detention home on Davis Avenue will be started in about 10 days, E. B. Bowman member of the juvenile court commission, announced at yesterday's meeting of the Mobile County Board of Revenue and Road Commissioners.

Bowman, who is also supervisor for the national youth administration here, presented the board with sealed bids on material for the construction of the building. The contract was awarded to McGowin-Lyons Hardware & Supply Company, with a low bid of $2,867.82, on motion of Commissioner W. W. Bolton.

The county budget provides for the expenditure of $4,000 for the new detention home.

Talladega, Ala. Daily Home
October 6, 1938

SNEAK THIEVES GIVEN REFORM SCHOOL TERMS

Judge Warns That Offenders Will Get the Limit In Court

Two small Negro boys who were found guilty of petty thievery were sent to the reform school after a hearing before Probate Judge D. Hardy Riddle in Juvenile Court Wednesday.

One of the boys was convicted of sneaking into the homeof Frank L. Harwell, superintendent of the city school system and the other was found guilty on about a dozen petty charges.

"I'm serving notice here and now that this court isn't giving any mercy to sneak thieves," Judge Riddle said.

"If they are old enough, we are going to put them in the penitentiary. If they aren't, we'll send them to reform school."

The two boys were believed responsible for a wave of daylight burglaries which struck the city about a month ago.

CRUSHING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN D.C.

Shown above are members of the staff of the Northwest Settlement House who all have as their one big aim—"to stamp out child delinquency." They are (left to right, seated): Miss E. Bernice Fletcher, head teacher of the nursery; Mrs. Flaxie Pinkett, director of the house; Miss Carolyn Doss, housekeeper and dietitian; (left to right, standing): Miss Callie V. Scott, worker in charge of girls' activities; and Ernest Johnson, in charge of boys' activities.

Juvenile Delinquency—1938

Florida

Tampa, Fla., Times
January 7, 1938

COMMISSIONERS AID INSTITUTION

Vote to Provide 1939 Funds for Upkeep of Home for Negro Delinquents

County Commissioners today voted to provide funds in next year's County budget for maintenance of a home here for delinquent Negro children.

The appropriation would be subject to approval of the County Budget Board.

The Commissioners voted to seek the appropriation after Carl D. Brorein, president of the Tampa Urban League and a member of the Budget Board, appeared before the Commissioners and asked for their support. He estimated cost of the first year's operation of the institution at approximately $6000.

He told the Commissioners a site for the institution had been donated by R. M. Clewis and another tract offered for the purpose. A building could be secured without cost from the Federal Government's Cross-State Canal project at Ocala, moved here and set up at a cost of between $500 and $1000.

"No provision ever has been made for delinquent colored children," Mr. Brorein said. "They are either left to roam the streets of the city or placed in jail."

He said it was believed funds for moving the building here from Ocala could be secured by "popular subscription." Mr. Brorein emphasized the institution could not be operated without the support of the County or "some other governmental agency." He pointed out that operation funds would not be sought until consideration of next year's County budget is begun.

Board Chairman Henderson remarked "the situation has reached the point where something must be done.

"No one else but us can do it," he said. "It is our responsibility."

"Delinquent Negro children are just as unfortunate as white children and they should be cared for."

Mr. Brorein said juvenile delinquency among Negroes now was costing Tampa merchants and business men "far more" than maintenance of the Negro institution would cost the County.

The Commissioners' decision was reached on motion of Commissioner Badger and passed without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Brorein was accompanied by Mr. Clewis, Juvenile Judge Castiglia, chairman of a special committee considering plans for establishing the institution, and a delegation of urban league members.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1938

Georgia
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YOUTHFUL NEGROES BIG PROBLEM OF JUVENILE COURT, DATA SHOW

Boys Under 16 Form Largest Class of Offenders Says Report, Which Also Reveals Officers Handled 116 Fewer Cases in 1937 Than in Previous Year

Of the 221 subjects handled in juvenile court here in 1937 more than half were Negro boys under the age of 16, it was learned yesterday in an annual report submitted to Judge P. O. Holliday.

The report was submitted by Miss Matthylde Wilson, probation officer, who again recommended a detention home for delinquent children as one of the county's greatest needs.

Other probation officers of the court are W. E. Davidson and Fanny Holt, the latter in charge of Negro cases.

Judge Holliday said the report showed no particular trend, although officers last year handled 111 fewer cases than in 1936.

"That does not necessarily mean there is less delinquency," said Judge Holliday. He said a great deal depends on the officers who make the cases from year to year.

Further Decline Seen

Of the total number of cases handled, 168 were classified as delinquents, 35 as dependents and 18 as neglected.

Judge Holliday pointed out that under the new state social welfare set-up the number of cases handled in the future should diminish, inasmuch as the state department has made provision for providing for dependent and neglected children under sixteen.

Of the total number of cases handled, 126 were Negro boys, 58 were white boys, 19 were white girls and 18 were Negro girls.

Similarly, of the 168 delinquents handled, 116 were Negro boys, 30 were white boys, 11 were Negro girls and five were white girls.

Of the 35 dependents, 18 were white boys; nine were white girls, six were Negro boys and two were Negro girls.

There were four neglected white boys and four neglected Negro boys, four neglected white girls and four neglected Negro girls.

Youths ranging in age from 10 to 15 were by far the worst offenders. There were 36 who were 14 years old, 35 who were 13 and 35 who were 12.

Fifty-seven of those handled by the court were handled solely for their protection from their parents or from other subversive influences.

Offenses Vary

Forty-nine were charged with loitering, 46 with larceny, 23 with burglary and 18 with disorderly conduct. Ninety-two of the cases originated with the probation officers, 83 in recorder's court, 32 with the police, seven in superior court, five in city court, one in the sheriff's office and one with railroad detectives.

In disposing of the cases, officers placed 85 on probation, sent 67 to the Juvenile home, sent 17 to state training schools, committed 24 to orphanages, dismissed 26, returned 23 to their homes, placed 19 under supervision of relatives, placed 17 in foster homes and found it necessary to place five homes under supervision.

During the year 69 subjects were dismissed from the Juvenile home to make room for the new subjects.

"The court has received splendid co-operation from the various social agencies and from the police department," Miss Wilson summarized.

"We believe that the most urgent needs for properly handling the children that come to the juvenile court are:

"A detention home or its equivalent, as at the present time we have no place in which to hold delinquent children other than the county jail, since the Juvenile home is for dependent and neglected children.

"An enlargement of the state training school for mental defectives.

"A state training school for colored girls, and some agency to assist in the work with dependent and neglected children.

"There is also a need for some kind of training for delinquent boys, as the state training school is not able to take all of the cases."

Savannah, Ga., News
October 22, 1933

PROBATION OFFICER FOR NEGROES IS APPOINTED

Thaddeus Eubanks Succeeds Frank Callen

Thaddeus B. Eubanks, colored attorney, has been appointed colored probation officer to succeed Frank Callen, it was announced yesterday by Judge Raiford Falligant, of the Juvenile Court.

In a report to county commissioners Judge Falligant said Eubanks had made the highest grade in an examination conducted by Victor B. Jenkins, E. G. Lippincott, and H. S. Bounds. Callen's resignation was effective September 30.

The commissioners granted building permits as follows: Ruby McDarwyck of Bona Bella, $50; T. Arthur Wilson Bay street extension and Augusta road, $200; and B. E. Tuten, Sixty-first and Bull streets, $800.

Macon, Ga., News
December 16, 1938

DELINQUENT NEGRO GIRLS GET SCHOOL

Building Completed, but Jay-Cees Are to Make Its Operation Possible

The Macon Junior Chamber of Commerce got behind a move last night to operate a school for delinquent Negro girls on the Camp Wheeler road.

The building was completed there many months ago but has never been utilized.

Benning Grice declared a proposal will be presented to the state board of public welfare for action.

To Allow Segregation

A large number of Negro delinquent girls now is being kept in county jails or in stockades with adult criminals, Mr. Grice said. Establishment of the school will provide a place for the juveniles.

During last night's meeting the Junior Chamber of Commerce members saw a movie filmed by Melvin Yates. The pictures featured dedication of the Herbert Smart Airport, air shows, a Jay-Ce pilgrimage to Fort Benning and the Ocmulgee National Monument.

New directors to fill five vacancies on the Jay-Ce board are Obie Calhoun, W. E. McCain, Hubert Joiner, Marion Sistare and Charlie Walker. The directors were elected from a group of 16 nominees.

A news committee appointed by Retiring President Cliff Olmstead for the next issue of the Jay-Ce News includes W. E. McCain, chairman; Ed Osborne, Guyton Abney, Ben Lubel and M. B. Minton.

Ladies Night Planned

A committee which will solicit advertisements for next year's news is composed of Bill Chaplain, chairman, Idus Wright and Tom Maddox.

The annual Jay-Ce Ladies night program will be held Jan. 6 at the Hotel Dempsey. Committee in charge of the program for that meeting is Ernest Redd Jr., chairman, Douglas Feagin Jr., Francis Cassidy, Stuart Windt, Ernest Barfield, Flew Murphey and George Nutting Jr.

Obie Calhoun, aviation committee head, reported he is "encouraged" over the prospects of having concrete runways placed at the Herbert Smart airport soon.

He asked for Jay-Ce support in entertaining more than 100 fliers who will stop in Macon overnight Jan. 3 on their way to Miami, Fla.

Following the meeting Christmas presents, all toys, were distributed to the Jay-Ce members. The toys will be placed in Christmas stockings for needy families.

Illinois

Juvenile Delinquency – 1938

NEW DEAL TAKES CARE OF OUR CHILDREN

Through the Works Progress Administration, Chicago, Ill., is shouldering its civic responsibility by keeping a check on juvenile delinquency in the Negro community in the Illinois metropolis. The top center photo shows the urban life which exerts a pressure upon the youths shown at play in the next picture. The other views show draftsmen mapping the trends of crime in the community, and the stenographic force making up reports of investigators. The work of a total of 125 WPA workers on this project will be used by the public and remedial agencies to prevent further crime among youths ranging from that of the youth shown in the lower right to young folk in their early twenties—WPA Photos.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1938

Louisiana

Alexandria, La. Town Talk
August 4, 1938

An Institution For Negro Juveniles Needed

The crying need of an institution in which to confine negro juveniles, was brought forcibly to public attention, in juvenile court yesterday, during the trial of five negro juveniles, ranging in ages from 10 to 16 years.

These young negroes were charged with breaking into and looting a home in the residential section of the city. Upon trial, they were convicted and the court ordered that they be committed to the custody of a "discreet person," and until such a person can be found, they are to remain in the custody of the juvenile officer.

The court deplored the fact that there is no institution to which young criminals of this class can be sent. It is a question in the minds of many, whether the juvenile law as at present framed, is of any benefit. On the contrary, many believe that it has the effect of emboldening youngers, both whites and negroes, of a criminal tendency, and starts them on a career of crime, particularly in view of the fact that they know that nothing can be done with them, when they are detected and apprheended in crime.

The law prohibits juveniles from being incarcerated in jail and it even prohibits publication of their names, when they are charged with an offense.

The law should be amended, if it should not be actually repealed, and another measure, which would be better adapted to present conditions, should be enacted. We believe that there are numerous changes which should be made in the law, at least, which might have the effect of bringing about a more wholesome respect therefor on detected and apprehended in crime.

However, as long as the present law remains on the statute books, there should be some method provided whereby negro juveniles could be punished for crime which they commit. At least an institution where they could be confined, should be established.

Many attempts have been made to have the legislature make provision for the establishment of such an institution, but up to the present time, all efforts have been futile. The Louisiana Association of Mayors, at its convention in this city, last April, urged in resolutions it adopted, that the legislature establish a home for negro juveniles, and numerous other efforts have been put forth in many sections of the State, by organizations, officials and individuals, to accomplish the same end, but all these attempts have apparently beer fruitless.

It is a sad commentary on the great State of Louisiana, that it has no place to confine these young criminals, and the only thing that can be done, when they commit crime is to turn them out and permit them to commit other and greater crimes.

There should be some concerted action in this matter and it should be agitated throughout the State, in order to arouse public sentiment so that something definite can be done toward the establishment of this institution, which is so badly needed.

Juvenile Delinquency — 1938

New York.

IT'S NOT SMART

PARENTS AND POLICE are becoming increasingly alarmed at the large number of Harlem boys and girls who are being taken into custody in raids on "reefer joints' —boys and girls of the ages of 15 to 17 years who evidently think it smart to smoke marijuana cigarettes, commonly referred to as "reefers."

Last week, detectives raided one such "joint" on 139th street and found three youths smoking "reefers" in a dingy, ill-furnished flat. The detectives remained in the apartment and before they left had taken eleven more youths into custody. One of the boys was 16 years old and came to the apartment with school books under his arm. The alarming thing is that the seller of the cigarettes was only 17 years old and the ages of his patrons ranged from 16 to 26.

Parents should tell their children that rather than being smart they are ruining their health by smoking "reefers."

Juvenile Delinquency - 1938

North Carolina

ILLEGAL CONFINEMENT OF CHILDREN CHARGED

Report Shows 66 Juveniles Under 10 Years of Age In Jail Last Year.

OVER 1,000 CONFINED

By W. T. BOST.

Daily News Bureau and Telegraph Office
302 Wachovia Bank Bldg., Fayetteville St.

RALEIGH, Feb. 22.—Dr. J. Wallace Nygard, director of the division of institutions and corrections of the state board of charities and public welfare, today declared that more than 6 per cent, 66 persons to be accurate, of the 1,070 children under 16 years of age committed to the 72 county jails in 1937, are under 10 years of age.

These commitments are in violation of a North Carolina statute which Attorney General A. A. F Seawell has ruled valid, according to Dr. Nygard. These jail cases cover the year and show what North Carolina is doing at this moment. The survey which he has completed has deeply depressing features, but not the least is the state's own delinquency toward its delinquents.

"According to the provisions of sections 5047-48 of the consolidated statutes, and the opinion of the attorney general, given in 1933," Dr Nygard said, "it is not legal to confine any person under 16 in jail unless the child is as much as 14 years old and is charged with the commission of a felony, the punishment for which may be more than 10 years imprisonment. It is apparent that many of the children were illegally confined in jails."

Dr. Nygardd's statement said that 61 per cent of the incarcerated children under 16 were negroes—584 boys and 74 girls—while 39 per cent were whites—353 boys and 59 girls. Thirty-seven per cent of the total, the report showed, were confined in jails of Buncombe, Wilson, Rutherford, Cabarrus, Edgecombe, Wayne and Pitt counties.

"A surprising number of the children, 126 or 11.8 per cent," Dr. Nygard's statement said, "were repeaters," appearing in jail more than once during the year on different charges. Some of these repeaters were in jail as many as six or seven times during the year."

Concord, N. C. Uplift
July 9, 1938

SHAMES WHITE YOUTH

(Selected)

At the end of April there were 470 white males under the supervision of the North Carolina probation commission, a new agency provided for by the 1937 Legislature. There were only ninety negro males. Hence for every negro male placed on probation in the local and superior courts of the state a little more than five white males received the same treatment.

In the 1930 census the white population outnumbered the negro population approximately 2.4 times. Yet there are more than twice as many white males under probation in proportion to the relative population of the two races. These figures would seem to shame the white youth of North Carolina. Certainly they contain striking evidence to support a feeling of pride among the negro youth and among those wise leaders of their race who have built up in them new habits of pride and law-abiding citizenship.

The progress of public education in the past quarter century has been more rapid among the whites than among the negroes of the State. It has only been during the past half dozen years that the negro boys and girls of North Carolina have been brought within the range of public school facilities comparable with those of the average white child. Maybe education is having a better result upon the negro youth than upon the white. At least it is probably drawing forth appreciation.

It might be argued by some that the courts are sending the negro males to the roads and giving the white males a better break under the new probation system. But those who would argue such have probably not noticed the attitude of the average judge in North Carolina toward the members of this race in recent years. Frequent and warm has been the praise that the judges of our superior courts have heaped upon the negro race during the past score of years, as the dockets from court to court have shown gradual decrease of negro defendants and an increase in white defendants, sometimes almost to the stage of public alarm. This very attitude would acquit the judicary of North Carolina of even the suspicion of partiality in alloting the benefits of this law.

Rocky Mount, N. C. Telegram
September 15, 1938

Negro County Farms Suggested By Officer

Wilson, Sept. 15. — County farms for delinquent Negro youths were advocated here yesterday by Chief of Police John H. Curley in a conference with members of the Wilson Negro Civic committee in regards to the delinquent youth situation in Wilson.

Pointing to the many Negro youngsters who were brought into police headquarters here almost every day and pointing, also, to the fact that the law did not provide any means to take care of them except in overcrowded state institutions, Chief Gurley suggested that something might be worked out whereby each county could build a farm where the deliquent Negro children could be sent until they became acclimated.

It was learned at the conference that one of the main causes of the delinquency of Negro youth here is the fact that the youngsters know that the law cannot touch them and that the state reformatories are filled.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
September 30, 1938

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NEGRO BOYS PROPOSED HERE

Optimist Club Urged By Harvey E. Garrett To Support Plan

The Optimist club, meeting yesterday at the S. and W. cafeteria, was urged to back a plan for establishing a Buncombe county training school for negro boys and to do all possible to "sell the county commissioners and the city council on the project."

Harvey E. Garrett told the club that "intolerable" conditions exist in Asheville because nothing can be done with young negro delinquents beyond giving them a lecture and sending them back to their homes to continue their lives of crime. Later, he said, many will become members of the adult criminal class. The taxpayers of the city should demand the establishment of such a school, for it will save them much money in the long run, he stated.

Mr. Garrett cited the fact that the Buncombe county training school for white boys is doing such fine work among delinquent white boys that one rarely ever goes wrong after being sent back from the school.

John Ehle, also speaking in support of the plan, said that because of the racketeer element among the negro boys, police are compelled to be on duty every night there is a church service to prevent accessories being stolen from cars of persons attending worship.

J. Frazier Glenn, former judge of juvenile court, also spoke of the club's work to help the under-privileged boy and declared that it was such work, together with the club's creed, that first led him to desire membership in the organization.

W. H. Plemmons, principal of Lee Edwards high school, spoke to the club in behalf of the Community Chest drive to be held next week. Frank A. Michael, president, presided at the meeting and Dudley V. Brown was program chairman.

Monroe, N. C. Enquirer
September 22, 1938

CHILDREN ARE IN TH CAROLINA JAILS

Larceny Leads In Charges Against Those Under 16

Larceny led among the charges on which children were in 59 North Carolina county jails during the first half of the year it was discovered this week in reports to the division of institutions and corrections of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. The total number incarcerated for the period dropped to 486 as compared with 742 children held during the corresponoding six months of 1937, William Curtis Ezell, director of the division stated.

All the 486 children were under 16 years of age and spent a total of 4,667 days in confinement to make the average length of stay nine and one-half months for each child.

Three boys were held for more than 100 days, one being jailed for as long as four months. Fifty-three percent, however, were kept in the county prisons for a period of less than five days.

During the first six months of 1938, one juvenile offender was jailed five times in three different county jails.

The 289 Negro children comprised almost 60 per cent of the total with 266 boys and 23 girls incarcerated. Thirty-one girls and 116 white boys brought the white race total to 197 jailed during the entire six months.

Nine children under ten years old were placed in the county jails housing older and more hardened criminals, while 142 of the total number were less than 14 years old.

Liquor law violations claimed 27 youthful offenders, while nine were jailed for rape, four for murder, and three for arson; three crimes carrying the death penalty under the North Carolina law.

Buncombe, Vance, Wayne and Pitt counties charged up 30 per cent of the total number of children in all 59 jails, with 18 counties jailing 68 percent of the 486 children.

"The law requires counties to maintain detention homes for those youthful offenders to keep them segregated from older persons who have been convicted or who are being held on criminal charges.

"We are very glad to note the decrease this year from the same six months of 1937. Increased interest on the part of local law endormement officers probably brought about a considerable part of this decrease," Ezell said in commenting on the report.

"However the fact still remains that there are many children still committed to jails illegally who could be handled more satisfactorily in some other manner."

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
October 28, 1938

NEGRO TRAINING SCHOOL FOR EAST TO BE SOUGHT

Wilson, Oct. 27.—Erection of a correctional institution for Negro boys in Eastern Carolina was urged last night by members of Negro civic leagues of Wilson, Rocky Mount and Greenville in a meeting here.

Discussing the problems of delinquency among Negro boys and girls in Eastern North Carolina, the gathering decided, at some future date, to hold a meeting of Negro representatives from neighboring cities in Eastern Carolina to see if some organization could not be formed that will work out the problems of Negro delinquency to a better conclusion than the situation is now being worked out.

Rocky Mount, N. C. Telegram
October 27, 1938

Negro Civic Forums Urge Erection Of Institution

Wilson, Oct. 27.—The erection of a correctional institution for Negro boys to be built somewhere in Eastern Carolina was urged last night by members of Negro civic leagues of Wilson, Rocky Mount and Greenville in a meeting here.

Discussing the problems of delinquency among young Negro boys and girls in Eastern North Carolina the gathering decided, at some future date, to hold a meeting of Negro representatives from neighboring cities in Eastern Carolina to see if some organization could not be formed that will work out the problems of Negro delinquency to a better conclusion than the situation is now being worked out.

Asheville, N. C. Times
December 8, 1938

Curtis Urges Reformatory For Negroes

A plea for the establishment of a proper training school for negro boys—and a suggestion that something might be done along this line in the coming session of the legislature—was made by State Senator Zeb F. Curtis before the Optimist club today.

Mr. Curtis, speaking at the weekly luncheon meeting of the club at the S and W cafeteria pointed to increasing delinquency among juvenile negroes and suggested that merchants, who are the greatest sufferers, should be interested in the subject.

The senator was introduced by Halsey B. Leavitt, who pointed out that this important matter concerning negro welfare had long been one of the objects of the club.

Mr. Curtis said, in part:

"The excellent article in The Asheville Citizen-Times by Jimmy Rogers recently with pictures showing the types of houses occupied by negroes in Asheville, and owned largely by white people, has aroused considerable discussion. As a result of that article, both daily papers had strong editorials urging that better housing conditions be provided for the negroes of our city.

"It would be quite interesting to know what per cent on the investment in these houses the rents yield the owners, but that is beside the question. I am chiefly concerned on this occasion with the question of negro juvenile delinquency growing out of such housing conditions as described in the feature article referred to, knowing that your club has been for a long time specially interested in this vital subject.

Only One Institution

"You will be shocked to know, if you have not already heard, that North Carolina has only one small institution for the training of negro boys who have become incorrigible—the Morrison Industrial school at Hoffman, Richmond county, and none at all, if I am correctly informed, for negro girls. The school just mentioned for boys is small and I regret that I can not tell you how many it will accommodate. Suffice it to say, however, that it is by no means large enough to take care of the boys who should be placed in an institution of that kind.

"It is a serious reflection on our state that so little has been done for negro juveniel delinquents. Only last week I received in my official capacity a strong plea from a highly respectable group of negro women urging that the legislature establish a home for delinquent negro girls. I sincerely hope that it will be possible for the legislature to make a beginning in that respect.

Recalls Merchants' Complaint

"Just about two years ago-during the Christmas shopping season the merchants of Asheville complained bitterly to the city authorities because of petty larceny by small negro boys, and girls in some instances, from the stores. The merchants became so worked up over the matter that they requested the authorities, if I remember correctly, to assign two extra officers for duty in the principal shopping districts of the city. For the sake of emphasis, in connection with the question under consideration, I raise this question: Have you ever heard of one of the complaining merchants of the city making demand upon the city and county authorities that they provide some training school or other institution for the negro juvenile offenders in our county. I answer an emphatic 'No.' And until that is done, not simply once, but over and over, not only by individuals, but by groups of earnest, determined men, will there ever be anything done about it.

"I commend the authorities for making provision for a play ground on Walton street for the negroes of Asheville. It was a splendid, forward-looking thing to do. I know the negroes of Asheville appreciate it, and the entire citizenship of the city acknowledges its worth and usefulness.

Cites Data

"Let me bring this matter home to you. I obtained some information from the juvenile court which bears out exactly what I have been saying and ought to convince the merchants of Asheville, as well as all other citizens, that it is time something should be done toward solving this problem locally. The juvenile court handled 35 cases involving negro boys during 1937. Twenty of them were for larceny. One five times during the year; one four times during the year. Three were for breaking and entering; two for destruction of property.

"During 1937 the juvenile court handled 12 cases involving negro girls. Four were charged with larceny; one of them three times during the year. Four were charged with being incorrigible, unmanageable. One with immortality, only 14 years old, and pregnant, and nowhere to send her and no provision for the child.

"In addition to all of the cases referred to—35—there were 35 investigations made of juveniles where no charges were preferred, hence no record made.

Similar 1938 Record

"The same conditions obtain for 1938, except the ratio of larceny cases is much higher. Of the 29 record cases so far for 1938, 20 were for larceny by negro boys, three of them involving three larceny charges

Juvenile Delinquency - 1938

Tennessee

Dr. Fuller Answers Challenge Of Miss. Writer on Negroes

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—

In a recent issue of the Commercial Appeal one L. D. Cunningham, Greenwood, Miss., "Challenges Negroes," making special reference to the Negroes of Memphis. Considering the number of questions asked in his letter, it is presumed that the writer is expecting a reply. In answering the Cunningham letter, it is not my desire to say anything that might offend either the writer of the Greenwood letter, or the great host of friends which the Negro has in other races. The letter in question was inspired, evidently, by the plight of a Negro boy in the Juvenile Court, whose foster mother was sentenced to a term of three years in the penitentiary, leaving him without a home. It is true that the state has no institution for relief of such cases and private families are not swift to receive children from criminal homes and corrupt environments. Some years ago, Charles (Swayback) Wilson, a colorful character living in Memphis at that time, devoted many years to raising funds for an orphanage. He turned the money raised over to the Council of Social Agencies, and two buildings were erected. The institution was operated as the "Charles Wilson Home" for a few years and then discontinued the work being done afterwards by a Home Finding Society. I wonder if the writer knows the difference between white and colored people in the handling of their less fortunate ones. White people rely wholly upon institutional care for the relief of the indigent. Colored people do not like institutional care, especially in the South. Instead of seeking orphanages for the children they absorb them in their families. I have known cases where five or six orphan children were taken in by relatives whose homes were far too small to properly care for them. They were given encouragement by landlords who wanted the children to work on the farms. This has also happened in the towns and cities. They seemed to regard Orphanages as a kind of prison and disliked them. Old Men's and Women's homes are regarded in the same way. I had a request, a few years ago, for 100 old men and women to do light work in white families. I was surprised when I couldn't find one who was willing to go. The National Baptist Convention of which I am a member, has filled a commodious and comfortable home at Nashville, Tennessee, on a college campus for helpless, superannuated ministers and at last account not one minister has accepted the opportunity to go there and live in comfort the rest of his life, notwithstanding the fact that hundreds of them over the country are in need of these accommodations. The institution was fitted up by the money from the Negro churches referred to in the Cunningham letter. Forty years ago, the building of orphanages was very popular. They were built by lodges and churches also. Progress in sociology regarded the modern method of finding homes for children, far better than having them grow up in isolated orphanages and out of touch with the world. Memphis is a city of fine white churches but I don't recall any orphanage operated by any except Catholic churches.

A number of women's clubs among colored people in Memphis contributes to needy families and children and furnishes clothing and scholarships for them. Yet there are more than 100 colored churches in Memphis and the percentage of criminals in their memberships will compare favorably with that of other race groups. These churches also belong to denominations and a good per cent of the money raised goes to operate publishing houses, to supply literature for their thousands of Sunday Schools and other kindred organizations. They also, support mission stations and send missionaries to Africa and other countries. Colored people feel very much at home in America, having come over with Christopher Columbus on his voyage of discovery finding nobody here at that time but Indians, yet they feel an obligation to assist in giving the gospel to the rest of the world. The Cunningham letter says: "There are thousands of men and women of the race who call themselves Christians and make a pretense of practising Christianity, but are woefully lacking in the true spirit of Christ." This is too true, but misery has some very distinguished company. Doctor Jones the great Missionary to India is quoted as saying that some of those peoples who had heard of conditions in America told the American Missionaries—"We like your Christ but we don't like your Christianity." Other heathen people asked the Missionaries sent to them—"How does your Christianity work, back home where you came from?" They had not heard, of course, of the bitter invective heaped upon a defenseless people of color, by Christian men in the U. S. Senate, the greatest law-making body in the world. The Greenwood writer says of the Negro—"The white man is tired of carrying them." What white man? I have never heard any complaint from any white man who was able to carry them. If any man white or black comes to take them away, he is either heavily taxed or imprisoned. There are stringent laws on the books to prevent taking Negro labor away. Give the Negro a man's chance at good wages and he will not be a burden to any man, and, when it comes to hypocrisy in religion, let the stones come from those who are themselves free from guilt.

—T. O. Fuller, Memphis Tenn.